

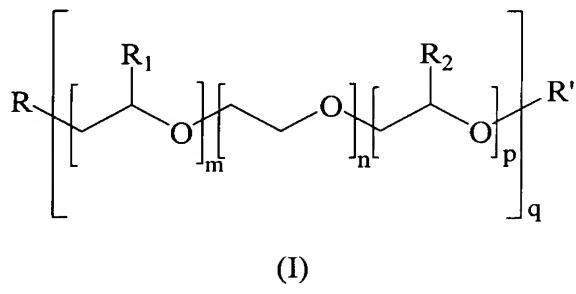
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-6 (Cancelled).

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): An agent for improving the activation of optical brightness, comprising a water-soluble copolymer having at least one alkoxy or hydroxy polyalkylene glycol function grafted onto at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The agent for improving the activation of optical brightness according to claim 7, wherein the agent is a water-soluble copolymer consisting of at least one monomer of formula (I):



wherein

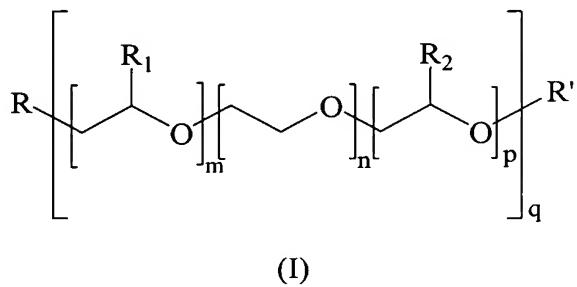
- m and p represent a number of alkylene oxide units less than or equal to 150,
- n represents a number of ethylene oxide units less than or equal to 150,
- q represents an integer equal to at least 1 and such that $5 \leq (m+n+p)q \leq 150$,
- R_1 represents hydrogen or the methyl or ethyl radical,
- R_2 represents hydrogen or the methyl or ethyl radical,
- R represents a radical comprising a polymerizable unsaturated function, belonging to the vinyl group and to the group of acrylic, methacrylic, maleic, itaconic, crotonic, and vinylphthalic esters and to the group of urethane

unsaturates, and to the group of allyl or vinyl ethers, whether or not substituted, or to the group of ethylenically unsaturated amides or imides, and

- R' represents hydrogen or a hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 40 carbon atoms.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The agent for improving the activation of optical brightness according to claim 7, wherein said agent is a water-soluble copolymer consisting of:

- a) at least one anionic monomer with a carboxylic or dicarboxylic or phosphoric or phosphonic or sulfonic function or a mixture thereof,
- b) at least one non-ionic monomer, the non-ionic monomer consisting of at least one monomer of formula (I):



wherein

- m and p represent a number of alkylene oxide units less than or equal to 150,
- n represents a number of ethylene oxide units less than or equal to 150,
- q represents an integer equal to at least 1 and such that $5 \leq (m+n+p)q \leq 150$,
- R₁ represents hydrogen or the methyl or ethyl radical,
- R₂ represents hydrogen or the methyl or ethyl radical,
- R represents a radical comprising a polymerizable unsaturated function, belonging to the vinyl group and to the group of acrylic, methacrylic, maleic,

itaconic, crotonic, and vinylphthalic esters and to the group of urethane unsaturates, and to the group of allyl or vinyl ethers, whether or not substituted, or to the group of ethylenically unsaturated amides or imides, and

- R' represents hydrogen or a hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 40 carbon atoms,

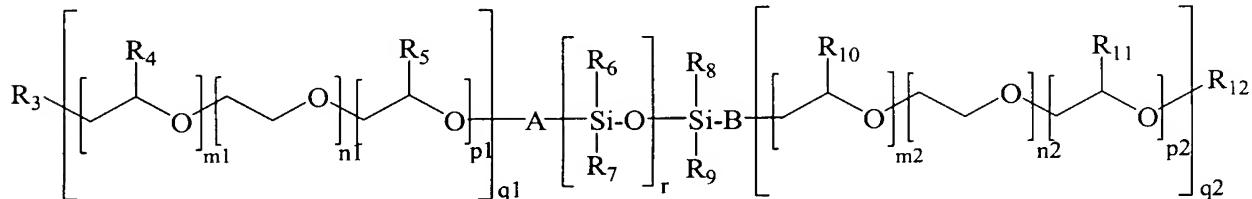
or a mixture of several monomers of formula (I),

- c) optionally, at least one monomer of the acrylamide or methacrylamide type or their derivatives and mixtures thereof, at least one non water-soluble monomer and their derivatives, at least one cationic monomer or quaternary ammonium at least one organofluorinated or organosilylated monomer, or a mixture of several of these monomers, and
- d) optionally, at least one monomer having at least two ethylenic insaturations referred to as a crosslinking monomer,

the total of the proportions of components a), b), c) and d) being equal to 100%.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The agent improving the activation of optical brightness according to claim 9 ~~claim 7~~, wherein the organosilylated monomer is selected from the group consisting of molecules of formulae (IIa) and (IIb),

with formula (IIa)

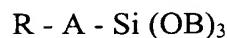


wherein

- m₁, p₁, m₂ and p₂ represent a number of alkylene oxide units less than or equal to 150,

- n_1 and n_2 represent a number of ethylene oxide units less than or equal to 150,
- q_1 and q_2 represent an integer equal to at least 1 and such that $0 \leq (m_1+n_1+p_1)q_1 \leq 150$ and $0 \leq (m_2+n_2+p_2)q_2 \leq 150$,
- r represents a number such that $1 \leq r \leq 200$,
- R_3 represents a radical comprising a polymerizable unsaturated function, belonging to the vinyl group and to the group of acrylic, methacrylic, maleic, itaconic, crotonic, and vinylphthalic esters and to the group of urethane unsaturates, and to the group of allyl or vinyl ethers, whether or not substituted, or to the group of ethylenically unsaturated amides or imides,
- R_4 , R_5 , R_{10} and R_{11} represent hydrogen or the methyl or ethyl radical,
- R_6 , R_7 , R_8 and R_9 represent straight or branched alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl or arylalkyl groups having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, or a mixture thereof,
- R_{12} represents a hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 40 carbon atoms, and
- A and B are groups which may be present, in which case they represent a hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

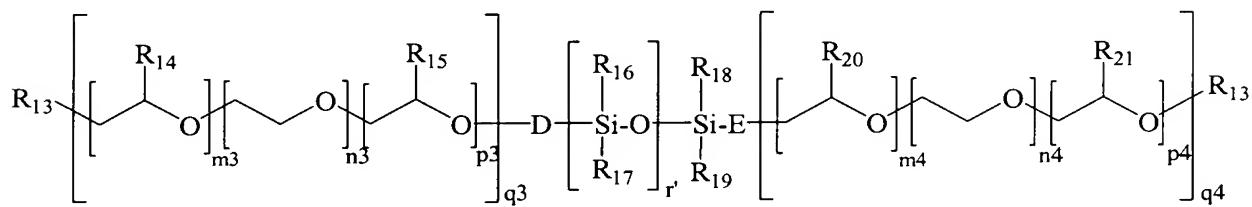
with formula (IIb)



wherein- R represents a radical comprising a polymerizable unsaturated function, belonging to the vinyl group and to the group of acrylic, methacrylic, maleic, itaconic, crotonic, and vinylphthalic esters and to the group of urethane unsaturates and to the group of allyl or vinyl ethers, whether or not substituted, or to the group of ethylenically unsaturated amides or imides,

- A is a group which may be present, in which case it represents a hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms,
- B represents a hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

or a mixture of several of said monomers,
and wherein the crosslinking monomer is selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol dimethacrylate, trimethylolpropanetriacrylate, allyl acrylate, the allyl maleates, methylene-bis-acrylamide, methylene-bis-methacrylamide, tetraallyloxyethane, triallylcyanurates, and allyl ethers prepared from polyols, or selected from the group consisting of molecules of formula (III):



(III)

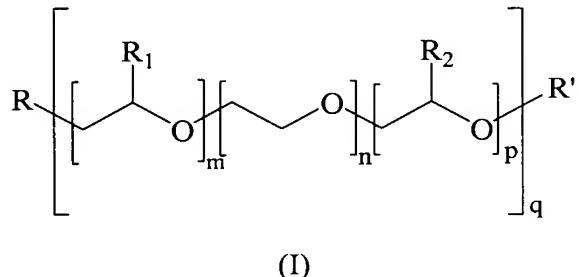
wherein

- m_3 , p_3 , m_4 and p_4 represent a number of alkylene oxide units less than or equal to 150,
- n_3 and n_4 represent a number of ethylene oxide units less than or equal to 150
- q_3 and q_4 represent an integer equal to at least 1 and such that $0 \leq (m_3+n_3+p_3)q_3 \leq 150$ and $0 \leq (m_4+n_4+p_4)q_4 \leq 150$,
- r' represents a number such that $1 \leq r' \leq 200$,
- R_{13} represents a radical comprising a polymerizable unsaturated function, belonging to the vinyl group and to the group of acrylic, methacrylic, maleic, itaconic, crotonic, and vinylphthalic esters and to the group of urethane unsaturates, and to the group of allyl or vinyl ethers, whether or not substituted, or to the group of ethylenically unsaturated amides or imides,
- R_{14} , R_{15} , R_{20} and R_{21} represent hydrogen or the methyl or ethyl radical,

- R_{16} , R_{17} , R_{18} and R_{19} represent straight or branched alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl or arylalkyl groups having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, or a mixture thereof, and
- D and E are groups which may be present, in which case they represent a hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or a mixture of several of said monomers.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The agent for improving the activation of optical brightness according to claim 7, wherein the agent is a water-soluble copolymer consisting, by weight, of:

- a) from 2% to 95% of at least one ethylenically unsaturated anionic monomer having a monocarboxylic function selected from the group consisting of ethylenically unsaturated monomers having a monocarboxylic function, ethylenically unsaturated monomers having a dicarboxylic function, ethylenically unsaturated monomers having a sulfonic function, ethylenically unsaturated monomers having a phosphoric function, ethylenically unsaturated monomers having a phosphonic function and mixtures thereof,
- b) from 2 to 95% of at least one non-ionic ethylenically unsaturated monomer of formula (I):



wherein

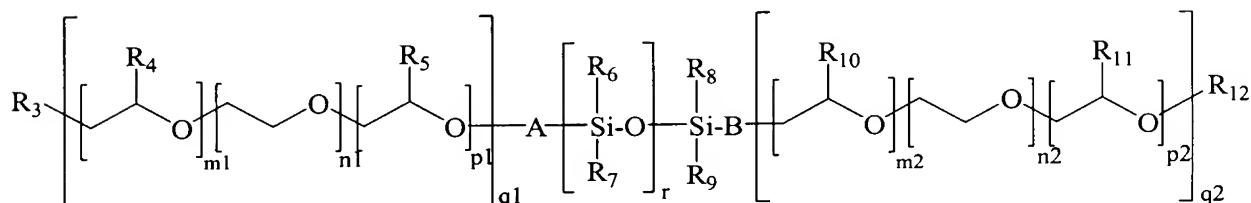
- m and p represent a number of alkylene oxide units less than or equal to 150,

- n represents a number of ethylene oxide units less than or equal to 150,
- q represents an integer equal to at least 1 and such that $5 \leq (m+n+p)q \leq 150$,
- R_1 represents hydrogen or the methyl or ethyl radical,
- R_2 represents hydrogen or the methyl or ethyl radical,
- R represents a radical comprising a polymerizable unsaturated function, belonging to the vinyl group and to the group of acrylic, methacrylic, maleic, itaconic, crotonic, and vinylphthalic esters and to the group of urethane unsaturates, and to the group of allyl or vinyl ethers, whether or not substituted, or to the group of ethylenically unsaturated amides or imides, and
- R' represents hydrogen or a hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 40 carbon atoms,

or a mixture of several monomers of formula (I),

c) from 0% to 5% of at least one monomer of the acrylamide or methacrylamide type or their derivatives and mixtures thereof, at least one non water-soluble monomer, unsaturated esters, vinyls and their derivatives, at least one cationic monomer or quaternary ammonium, at least one organofluorinated monomer, or at least one organosilylated monomer selected from the group consisting of molecules of formulae (IIa) and (IIb),

with formula (IIa)



wherein

- m_1 , p_1 , m_2 and p_2 represent a number of alkylene oxide units less than or equal to 150,

- n_1 and n_2 represent a number of ethylene oxide units less than or equal to 150,
- q_1 and q_2 represent an integer equal to at least 1 and such that $0 \leq (m_1+n_1+p_1)q_1 \leq 150$ and $0 \leq (m_2+n_2+p_2)q_2 \leq 150$,
- r represents a number such that $1 \leq r \leq 200$,
- R_3 represents a radical comprising a polymerizable unsaturated function, belonging to the vinyl group and to the group of acrylic, methacrylic, maleic, itaconic, crotonic, and vinylphthalic esters and to the group of urethane unsaturates, and to the group of allyl or vinyl ethers, whether or not substituted, or to the group of ethylenically unsaturated amides or imides,
- R_4 , R_5 , R_{10} and R_{11} represent hydrogen or the methyl or ethyl radical,
- R_6 , R_7 , R_8 and R_9 represent straight or branched alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl or arylalkyl groups having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, or a mixture thereof,
- R_{12} represents a hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 40 carbon atoms, and
- A and B are groups which may be present, in which case they represent a hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

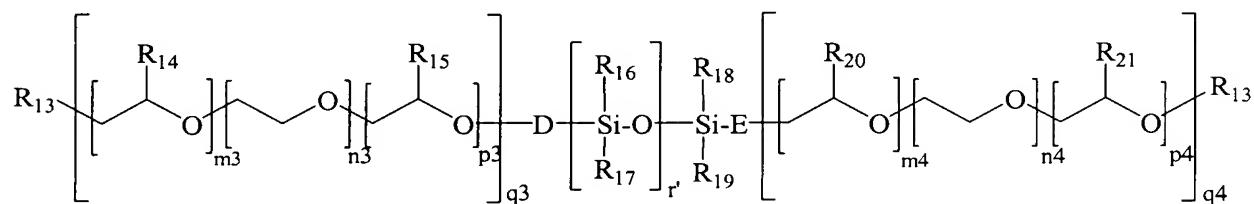
with formula (IIb)



wherein

- R represents a radical comprising a polymerizable unsaturated function, belonging to the vinyl group and to the group of acrylic, methacrylic, maleic, itaconic, crotonic, and vinylphthalic esters and to the group of urethane unsaturates, and to the group of allyl or vinyl ethers, whether or not substituted, or to the group of ethylenically unsaturated amides or imides,
- A is a group which may be present, in which case it represents a hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and

- B represents a hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or a mixture of several of said monomers,
- d) from 0% to 3% of at least one crosslinking monomer selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol dimethacrylate, trimethylolpropanetriacrylate, allyl acrylate, the allyl maleates, methylene-bis-acrylamide, methylene-bis methacrylamide, tetrallyloxyethane, triallylcyanurates, and allyl ethers prepared from polyols, or selected from the group consisting of molecules of formula (III):



(III)

wherein

- m_3 , p_3 , m_4 and p_4 represent a number of alkylene oxide units less than or equal to 150,
- n_3 and n_4 represent a number of ethylene oxide units less than or equal to 150,
- q_3 and q_4 represent an integer equal to at least 1 and such that $0 \leq (m_3+n_3+p_3)q_3 \leq 150$ and $0 \leq (m_4+n_4+p_4)q_4 \leq 150$,
- r' represents a number such that $1 \leq r' \leq 200$,
- R_{13} represents a radical comprising a polymerizable unsaturated function, belonging to the vinyl group and to the group of acrylic, methacrylic, maleic, itaconic, crotonic, and vinylphthalic esters and to the group of urethane unsaturates, and to the group of allyl or vinyl ethers, whether or not substituted, or to the group of ethylenically unsaturated amides or imides,
- R_{14} , R_{15} , R_{20} and R_{21} represent hydrogen or the methyl or ethyl radical,

- R_{16} , R_{17} , R_{18} and R_{19} represent straight or branched alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl or arylalkyl groups having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, or a mixture thereof, and
- D and E are groups which may be present, in which case they represent a hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms

or a mixture of several of said monomers,
the total of the proportions of components a), b), c) and d) being equal to 100%.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The agent for improving the activation of optical brightness according to claim 7, wherein the agent is a copolymer in acid form or fully or partially neutralized by one or more neutralization agents having a monovalent neutralizing function or a polyvalent neutralizing function.

Claims 13-34 (Cancelled).